

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 OIC-02 CCO-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8329

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

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E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS: ETEL, ITU

SUBJECT: ITU: AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON WORKING METHODS
OF ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

REF: (A) STATE 80268 (B) STATE 86679

A. SUMMARY: VERY FRUITFUL MEETING OF AD HOC WORKING
GROUP WAS HELD IN MADRID AS SCHEDULED APRIL 5-7 UNDER
ABLE CHAIRMANSHIP OF SPANISH REP MOLINA NEGRO. REPRESENTATIVES OF 11 COUNCIL MEMBERS AND GENERAL SECRETARIAT
CONSIDERED EIGHT PAPERS PRESENTED BY MEMBERS AND
FORMULATED A NUMBER OF EXTREMELY USEFUL PROPOSALS FOR
CONSIDERATION TO ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL WHICH BEGINS
1978 SESSIONS ON MAY 15. END SUMMARY

B. ATTENDANCE. FOLLOWING REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDED
SUBJECT MEETING:

1. SPAIN: F. MOLINA NEGRO (CHAIRMAN)
2. FRG: G. HAUSMANN
3. CANADA: G. WARREN

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4. USA: S. FRIEDLAND
5. FRANCE: P. DU PLAN
6. HUNGARY: L. KATONA KIS
7. ITALY: C. BAUDAZZI
8. JAPAN: M. YONEZAWA
9. MOROCCO: M. EL AOUD AND M. MOUHCINE
10. UK: J. HEALEY AND R. COLEMAN

11. USSR: E. MOTINE
12. ITU: R. BUTLER, DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL

C. FOLLOWING WRITTEN CONTRIBUTIONS WERE CONSIDERED:

1. DOC. 1 SPAIN
2. DOC. 2 FRANCE
3. DOC. 3 UK
4. DOC 4 AND 5 FRG
5. DOC. 6 SWEDEN
6. DOC. 7 HUNGARY
7. DOC. 8 CANADA

DOCS. 6 TO 8 WERE DISTRIBUTED AT MEETING. IF
SPANISH ADMINISTRATION HAS NOT YET SENT TO DEPARTMENT
PLEASE ADVISE AND MISSION WILL AIR POUCH.

D. BY GENERAL AGREEMENT, SPANISH PAPER WAS USED AS
AGENDA OF MEETING. IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT GROUP WOULD
NOT CONSIDER CHANGES IN COUNCIL'S WORKING METHODS WHICH
WOULD REQUIRE EITHER AMENDING CONVENTION OR MAJOR
CHANGES IN COUNCIL'S RULES OF PROCEDURE. MEETING DECIDED
TO HEAR EXPLANATION OF EACH OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS BY
THEIR SPONSORS AND THEN CONSIDER THE POINTS IN ITS
RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL PER THE SPANISH PAPER.
DURING EXPLANATIONS OF CONTRIBUTIONS, IT BECAME EVIDENT THAT
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THERE WERE MANY POINTS OF CONVERGENCE AND ACCORDINGLY,
THERE WAS LITTLE DIFFICULTY OR DISAGREEMENT IN ARRIVING
AT FINAL CONCLUSIONS TO BE REPORTED TO COUNCIL. IT WAS
ALSO AGREED THAT WHEN SOME MEMBERS DID NOT AGREE WITH
GENERAL VIEW, THIS WOULD BE REFLECTED IN WORKING GROUP
REPORT.

E. FOLLOWING IS DISCUSSION OF ITEMS COVERED USING
SPANISH AGENDA:

1. FUNCTIONS OF COUNCIL

1.1 - TWO-YEAR PROGRAMS. MAJORITY OF GROUP DID
NOT FAVOR TWO-YEAR PROGRAMMING, ALTHOUGH CANADIANS AND
BRITISH DID. GENERALLY, GROUP FELT THAT TWO-YEAR
PROGRAMMING WAS NOT DESIRABLE IN ABSENCE OF TWO YEAR
BUDGET, WHICH IS CURRENTLY PRECLUDED UNDER TERMS OF
TORREMOLINOS CONVENTION. DISCUSSION INDICATED MOST
PARTICIPANTS WERE VERY COOL TOWARDS TWO-YEAR BUDGETING,
SEVERAL CITING EXAMPLE OF A NUMBER OF SPECIALIZED AGENCIES
WHERE RESULTS HAD PROVED DISAPPOINTING. US REP MADE
STATEMENT ALONG LINES PARA 3.A REF (B).

1.2 AND 1.3 OMITTED AS GROUP FELT THEY FELL
OUTSIDE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF WORKING GROUP.

1.4 - ROLE OF STEERING COMMITTEE. HUNGARIAN
PROPOSAL CONTAINED VAGUE REFERENCE TO EXPANDING ROLE OF
STEERING COMMITTEE (WHICH WAS FOLLOWON TO EQUALLY VAGUE
SOVIET PROPOSAL TO COUNCIL OF TWO YEARS AGO). WHEN
PRESSED FOR EXPLANATION, HUNGARIANS REFERRED TO A POSSIBLE
EXPANSION IN ACTIVITIES OF STEERING COMMITTEE (WHICH NOW
RELATE BASICALLY TO SETTING ORDER OF ITEMS TO BE DIS-
CUSSED, DATES AND TIMES OF PLENARY AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS,

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ETC.) TO GIVE IT AUTHORITY TO MAKE SUBSTANTIVE PROPOSALS
TO THE CONFERENCE ON ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION. THIS
PROPOSAL FOUND NO SUPPORT (OTHER THAN SOVIET DEL) AND
HUNGARIAN WITHDREW IT WITH A RATHER-RED FACE WHEN HE WAS
UNABLE TO FURTHER DEFINE HOW IT WOULD WORK. REGARDING
DEPT'S PROPOSAL IN PARA 3-C REFTEL (B), U.S. REP
UNDERTOOK CORRIDOR CONVERSATIONS AND FOUND ABSOLUTELY
NO RPT NO SUPPORT FOR INCLUDING IN STEERING COMMITTEE
MEMBERSHIP ANY REPRESENTATIVES OTHER THAN THOSE WHO ARE
COUNCIL OFFICERS. IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT STEERING
COMMITTEES HAVE BEEN AN ITU INSTITUTION FOR DECADES
AND THEY HAVE ALWAYS CONSISTED ONLY OF THE CHAIRMEN AND
VICE CHAIRMEN OF THE CONFERENCE AND COMMITTEES. THERE-
FORE, THERE WERE NO CRITERIA FOR ENLARGING SUCH COMMITTEE AN
AND THE OTHER REPRESENTATIVES DID NOT WISH TO OPEN THIS
QUESTION UP. ACCORDINGLY, US REP DID BROACH MATTER IN

WORKING GROUP MEETING.

IN ADDITION TO FOREGOING, GROUP ALSO DISCUSSED UNDER THIS HEADING QUESTION OF USE OF AD HOC WORKING GROUPS DURING COUNCIL SESSION AND INTERSESSIONALLY. DEPUTY SYG BUTLER, WHO WAS COUNCIL REP 1962-68 REMINDED PARTICIPANTS THAT UNCLASSIFIED

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IN PREVIOUS YEARS A.C. HAD MADE MUCH MORE EXTENSIVE USE OF WORKING GROUPS DURING COUNCIL SESSIONS, WHICH GREATLY HELPED TO SPEED UP COUNCIL'S WORK. THIS VIEW WAS ECHOED BY MANY OTHER REPS AND IT WAS DECIDED TO RECOMMEND TO A.C. THAT GREATER USE BE MADE OF THIS DEVICE. INTER-SESSIONAL WORKING GROUPS DID NOT, HOWEVER, FIND SUCH SUPPORT AND THEIR USE WAS FAVORED ONLY IN EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

2. PREPARATION OF MEETINGS.

2.1 - COUNCIL TO PREPARE DRAFT AGENDA FOR FOLLOWING MEETING. THIS CANADIAN PROPOSAL DID NOT FIND GENERAL FAVOR;

2.2 - CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN SESSIONS. IT WAS AGREED FOR VARIOUS REASONS THAT IT WAS NOT A PARTICULARLY GOOD IDEA TO INSTITUTIONALIZE ANY TYPE OF INTERSESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE:

2.3 - SUBMISSION OF QUARTERLY REPORTS BY THE SYG. W.G. MEMBERS WERE VERY KEEN ON THIS PROPOSAL AND RECOMMENDED THAT COUNCIL CONSIDER APPROVING THIS. MOST MEMBERS FOUND ANNUAL REPORT CUMBERSOME AND NOT REALLY USEFUL AND NOTED REPORT CONTAINED ONLY INFO RELATING TO PREVIOUS YEAR. AT SUGGESTION OF US REP, GROUP AGREED QUARTERLY REPORT SHOULD TAKE FORM OF 5-6 PAGE NEWSLETTER AND SHOULD CONTAIN LATEST NEWS OF INTEREST TO COUNCILLORS IN FIELDS OF FINANCE, PERSONNEL AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION. COST COULD BE COVERED BY STREAMLINING ANNUAL REPORT AND CUTTING OUT OF MARGINAL AND IRRELEVANT INFORMATION CONTAINED THEREIN.

3. PRESENTATION OF DOCUMENTS.

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3.1, 3.2 AND 3.3 - FORMAT OF DOCUMENTATION.
THERE WAS UNIVERSAL CRITICISM OF SECRETARIAT'S

PRESENT METHOD OF PREPARING DOCUMENTATION FOR A.C.
AFTER LENGTHY DEBATE, WG AGREED TO PROPOSE TO A.C. THAT
ALL DOCUMENTS CONTAIN A PREFACE WHICH SUMMARIZES CONTENT
OF DOCUMENTS AND NOTED WHETHER DOCUMENT FOR INFO ONLY
OR FOR ACTION. FURTHERMORE, ALL DOCUMENTS CONCERNING
ITEMS WHICH CARRY FINANCIAL, PERSONNEL OR ORGANIZATIONAL
IMPLICATIONS SHOULD HAVE ATTACHED A STANDARD FORMAT
COVER SHEET WHICH CONTAINS: (A) STATEMENT OF PROBLEM,
(B) STATEMENT OF HOW PROBLEM DEVELOPED; (C) ORGANS
CONCERNED; (D) ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS WITH FULL PERSONNEL,
FINANCIAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL CONSEQUENCES;
AND (E) SECRETARIAT'S PROPOSED SOLUTION.

TIMELINESS OF DOCUMENTS. THERE WAS VIRTUALLY
UNIVERSAL CRITICISM OF LATENESS OF DOCUMENTS. AFTER
FULL DISCUSSION, IT WAS AGREED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL
THAT UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES, SECRETARIAT BE
REQUIRED TO SEND OUT ALL DOCUMENTATION HAVING BUDGETARY,
PERSONNEL OR ORGANIZATIONAL IMPLICATIONS AT LEAST EIGHT
WEEKS IN ADVANCE.

4. BUDGETARY PROBLEMS.

AT OUTSET OF DEBATE, US REP SUBMITTED PROPOSAL
IN REF (B) PARA 2. WG DECIDED NOT TO DISCUSS PROPOSAL
INASMUCH AS IT WOULD ENTIRELY ALTER AC'S PRESENT METHOD
OF WORK AND THIS WAS OUTSIDE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF WG;
HOWEVER, IT AGREED TO MENTION PROPOSAL IN REPORT TO
COUNCIL. WG DID AGREE, HOWEVER, TO RECOMMEND THAT
COUNCIL SHOULD FULLY EXAMINE BUDGET DURING FIRST WEEK OF
MEETING AND NOT WAIT UNTIL FINAL DAYS OF SESSION WHICH

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IS NOW THE CASE;

4.1 AND 4.2 - WG AGREED TO PROPOSE THAT IF ITU DRAFT BUDGET EXCEEDS TORREMOLINOS LIMITS, SYG SHOULD PRESENT TWO BUDGETS - ONE WITHIN LIMIT AND SECOND, A SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET INCLUDING ITEMS OVER LIMIT. CANADA AND UK WERE NOT IN ACCORD WITH THIS PROPOSAL AND THEIR POSITION WILL BE NOTED; THIS POSITION REQUIRES THAT SYG PRESENT REGULAR BUDGET; IF BUDGET OVER LIMITS, HE SHOULD PRESENT ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS FOR REDUCTION;

4.3 AND 4.4 - THESE ITEMS ALREADY COVERED UNDER 1.1.

4.5 - IT WAS HELD THIS WAS TAKEN CARE OF BY FRG "COVER SHEET" PROPOSED UNDER 3.1-3.

F. IT WAS AGREED THAT SPANISH CHAIRMAN WOULD PREPARE INITIAL DRAFT OF REPORT AND CIRCULATE IT BY AIRMAIL TO PARTICIPANTS, WHO WILL SUBMIT COMMENTS AND CORRECTIONS. CHAIRMAN WILL THEN PREPARE FINAL DRAFT FOR SECRETARIAT WHICH WILL THEN CIRCULATE IT AS CONFERENCE DOCUMENTS.
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FINAL DOCUMENT WILL NOT CONNECT COUNTRIES OR NAMES OF REPRESENTATIVES TO SPECIFIC PROPOSALS.

G. GROUP WORKED HARMONIOUSLY AND IN COOPERATIVE SPIRIT AND US REP BELIEVES SOME OF FOREGOING PROPOSALS, IF IMPLEMENTED, COULD MAKE MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO IMPROVING AND SPEEDING UP WORK OF ADMIN COUNCIL. VANDEN HEUVEL

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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2984321
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ITU: AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON WORKING METHODS OF ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
TAGS: ETEL, ITU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/83f839b1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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